

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 ANKARA 004405

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL  
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
-----

#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Erdogan on PKK: There's a Limit to Our Patience - Milliyet  
Turkey to Sign EU Adaptation Protocol Today - Milliyet  
Kretschmer: Iraqi Government To Decide on Turkish  
Intervention - Milliyet  
European Countries Step Up Anti-Terror Measures - Sabah  
Attacks Against Muslims on Rise in Britain - Aksam  
IRA Gives Up Arms After 30 Years - Sabah  
PKK Abducts Mayor in Southeast Turkey - Hurriyet  
NASA Suspends Space Shuttle Flights Indefinitely - Sabah

##### OPINION MAKERS

Erdogan: We See No US Effort Against the PKK - Cumhuriyet  
London Police Detain 9 Suspects, Including 3 Turks -  
Cumhuriyet  
Turkish Tourists Cancel Reservations at Sharm al-Sheik -  
Radikal  
IRA Bids Farewell to Arms - Radikal  
London Attacks Have Not Shifted Americans' View of Islam -  
Zaman  
Karadzic's Wife Urges Him to Surrender to The Hague -  
Radikal  
No Surprise: Mubarak Runs for Egyptian Presidency Again -  
Radikal  
Daniel Pearl Murder Suspect Caught in Punjab - Radikal

#### BRIEFING

Ankara Prepares to Sign EU Adaptation Protocol: Although Ankara is not happy with an EU blueprint outlining the framework for entry talks with Turkey, it has refrained from voicing a strong reaction in an effort to avoid a crisis with the European bloc before membership negotiations begin in October, Turkish dailies report. The draft framework document has not yet been approved by EU countries. Greek Cypriot President Papadopoulos said he has no objections to the EU opening talks with Turkey, but has been pushing the Europeans to pressure Turkey to open its ports and airports to the Cypriots. Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis has also signaled a shift in his positive attitude toward Turkey, and is now trying to include disputes over the Aegean in the framework document. Papers also report that Prime Minister Erdogan has sent letters to his Belgian, Italian, German, Dutch, and British counterparts expressing Turkey's readiness to sign the EU adaptation protocol. Erdogan called on EU leaders to honor their 'December 17 commitment' that the signing of the protocol will not amount to recognition of the Greek Cypriot administration. Papers view the letter as an effort to 'soften' the EU reaction to a declaration to be issued by Turkey once the protocol is signed. The declaration will stress that the signing of the protocol will not imply Turkey's recognition of Nicosia, and add that Greek Cypriot vessels will not be allowed into Turkish ports. "Milliyet" reports that, based on a conversation with Prime Minister, it is clear that Turkey will exclude 'the service sector' from implementation of the EU protocol. In practical terms, this would prevent the Cypriots from using Turkish services at ports and airports. Erdogan told PM Tony Blair during a visit to London earlier this week that Ankara would issue the declaration, but promised that it would be 'constructive,' nor 'provocative.' Papers claim that Blair convinced Erdogan that the declaration needs to be softened in order to head off a possible reaction from the EU. Reports suggest that despite significant efforts by UK officials in London and Ankara, the Turkish Government has refused to share the text of the declaration with the UK as EU term president. Police Expect New al-Qaida Attacks in Istanbul: The deputy chief of the Istanbul Police, Sammaz Demirtas, told "Vatan" that the police have been keeping a close watch on some 1,000 al-Qaida suspects in Istanbul, monitoring their

activities before they have a chance to establish contact with the terrorist organization. Demirtas said he expected another major al Qaida-linked attack in Istanbul before November. He said he did not expect attacks against commuter buses or subway stations, stressing that al-Qaida has most frequently targeted foreigners in Turkey. Demirtas noted that the Turkish police have foiled five bombing attempts by the PKK militants over the past month. The PKK's targets were all in touristic areas, he said.

**British Police Detain Three Turks in London Terror Probe:** Three Turks were among nine people detained on Thursday in Britain in a roundup of suspects with possible connections to the terrorists who tried to bomb trains and buses in London on July 21. British Police took into custody 3 Turks working in a cafe owned by a Turkish Cypriot in the south London neighborhood of Tooting Broadway. The suspects were detained for making frequent phone calls to suspected 'terror centers' in Birmingham and Manchester. The Turkish suspects reportedly made the calls on cell phones, and frequently changed phone cards to cover their tracks. The reports also note that Turks in the neighborhood who were acquainted with the three suspects said that they were 'moderates,' and did not appear to be terrorists.

**EU Appoints Greek Cypriot Representative to Cyprus:** The European Union Commission appointed a Greek Cypriot representative for Cyprus, "Zaman" reported from Brussels. The new EU Cyprus representative, Themis Themistocleous, currently works as the general director of the Cyprus News Agency, which is affiliated with the Cypriot Government. Both the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey believe that the appointment is 'inappropriate,' and that Themistocleous cannot be impartial in representing the EU. Ankara's official position with regard to the appointment will be disclosed next week, "Zaman" claims.

**DEHAP Official Sentenced to Prison:** Bedri Firat, Erzurum provincial chairman of the pro-Kurdish Democratic People's Party (DEHAP), was sentenced to 10 months in prison for making propaganda on behalf of the outlawed PKK. The Supreme Court of Appeals (Yargitay) turned down Firat's request to overturn an earlier ruling by a local court in Erzurum, arguing that terror-related cases cannot be suspended. The Erzurum court had accused Firat of referring to the PKK's imprisoned leader as 'the honorable' Ocalan, and hanging posters of Ocalan in the lobby of the party building.

**HRW Urges PKK to Halt Violence:** The New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) has urged the PKK leadership to halt attacks against Kurdish dissidents, "Milliyet" reports. HRW asked for information regarding the killing of Sipan Rojhilat in northern Iraq, Atilla Kanda in Hakkari, and Hikmet Fidan in Diyarbakir. It also urged 'forces loyal to the PKK' to comply with Turkish and Iraqi laws and international law, and not to attack people who stay out of the fighting.

**Terror Attacks Did Not Change Americans' Opinion of Islam:** "Zaman" carries the results of a Pew survey, which show that the terrorist bombings in London earlier this month have not changed the way most Americans view Islam. 55 percent of Americans have 'positive feelings' with regard to Muslims living in the United States, and only 25 percent voiced negative views about them. 20 percent of respondents said they are 'undecided.' 60 percent of Americans think that the terrorist attacks are being carried out by 'small, radical Islamic groups.' Almost half of Americans said they little or nothing about the Holy Koran or Allah, according to the survey. Meanwhile, papers report that 130 American Islamic scholars issued a 'fatwa' denouncing terror attacks targeting civilians.

**PKK Abducts Mayor in East Turkey:** Militants from the outlawed PKK allegedly kidnapped the mayor of Yayladere in the eastern Turkish province of Bingol on Thursday, papers report. The abducted mayor, Hasim Akyurek, is from the ruling AK Party. Turkish security forces have launched a large-scale operation in the region to find the mayor.

**EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq; Turkey/Cyprus; US Landmines Policy**

"US Priorities in Iraq"

Cengiz Candar commented in the conservative "DB-Tercuman" (7/29): "Peter Galbraith, the number one US expert on the Kurds, believes that the Shiites' constitutional draft contains elements that could turn Iraq into an Islamic Republic. . The Shiites' draft is anti-Semitic, according to Galbraith, because it deprives Jews in Iraq of rights granted to other groups. It also grants rights to Ayatollah Sistani similar to those given to Khomeini in the first decade of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Kurdistan leaders are insisting on a federal structure, in which they will be able to maintain a secular, western-oriented political

regime even if other parts of Iraq fall under the control of religious parties. . Galbraith says that the Kurds see a strong, autonomous Kurdistan as the best obstacle against expanding Iranian influence in Iraq. The Kurds want to be in a position to turn their back on a constitution that is not liberal and is too centralized. Galbraith acknowledges, however, that the Kurds are facing intensive pressure from the Bush Administration to meet the constitutional deadline of August 15. . It is clear that the Americans' priority in Iraq is the Shiites, not the Kurds. This priority has a lot to do with regional jockeying between the US and Iran."

"To Recognize or Not to Recognize"

Ismet Berkan observed in the liberal intellectual "Radikal" (7/29): "Contrary to Nicosia's expectations, Ankara will continue to prevent Greek Cypriot vessels and planes from entering Turkish ports and airports. The opening of ports will ultimately force Turkey to lift the unilateral sanctions it has long imposed on the Greek Cypriots, while getting nothing in return. Turkey is right in being reluctant to lift the embargo on southern Cyprus without a change in the conditions that brought about the sanctions in the first place. . Essentially, the Greek side is seeking a practical normalization of ties with Turkey in lieu of official recognition.'

"Damned Landmines"

Umur Talu wrote in the mass-appeal "Sabah" (7/29): "The US refuses to cooperate with the rest of the world regarding greenhouse gas emissions that kill the atmosphere. It also rejects removing landmines, death traps that kill the environment. The US practice of planting thousands of landmines and using cluster bombs in Iraq is no different from the mentality of Saddam Hussein, who turned northern Iraq into a minefield. Washington has stepped back from an earlier initiative to join the worldwide anti-landmine campaign. The US now boasts that it has developed Claymore landmines, which can be detonated from a remote distance using a laptop computer. The Americans even say that these new landmines will protect civilians, and can assist in the spread of democracy and freedom!"

MCELDOWNEY